

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1075

To limit the sale or export of plastic bullets to the United Kingdom.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 1997

Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MANTON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BORSKI, and Mrs. MEEK of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To limit the sale or export of plastic bullets to the United Kingdom.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Northern Ireland
5 Peace Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Since the British Army and the Royal Ul-
9 ster Constabulary in Northern Ireland have begun to

1 use plastic bullets as weapons, thousands have been
2 injured and 17 individuals have been killed by such
3 bullets, including seven children.

4 (2) Since the Royal Ulster Constabulary began
5 to use plastic bullets in 1973, more than 54,000
6 rounds have been fired, and plastic bullets have com-
7 pletely replaced rubber bullets.

8 (3)(A) Plastic bullets are often used in a sectar-
9 ian manner.

10 (B) During the standoff at Drumcree from July
11 7, 1996, to July 14, 1996, the security forces of the
12 United Kingdom in Northern Ireland fired a total of
13 5,942 rounds of plastic bullets, of which 5,500 were
14 targeted at Catholic Nationalists.

15 (4) Before the Drumcree standoff, six civil lib-
16 erties/human rights groups, including the Committee
17 on the Administration of Justice in Northern Ire-
18 land, the British Irish Rights Watch, and Liberty,
19 asked the chief constable in Northern Ireland to
20 “immediately and permanently withdraw plastic bul-
21 lets from use”.

22 (5)(A) The use of plastic bullets is counter-
23 productive whether such use is against the residents
24 of the Lower Ormeau Road and the Bogside or

1 against the Orange Order marchers in Portadown or
2 on the Upper Ormeau Road.

3 (B) The use of plastic bullets has contributed
4 to thousands of maimings, disfigurements, loss of
5 eyesight of individuals, and overwhelmingly caused
6 other widespread violence and intimidation.

7 (6) The United Campaign Against Plastic Bul-
8 lets claim that the use of plastic bullets has caused
9 further alienation of nationalists and increased dis-
10 trust of the security forces of the United Kingdom
11 while contributing to the destabilization of Northern
12 Ireland.

13 (7) The efforts of the Government of the Unit-
14 ed Kingdom to acquire dangerous weapons and re-
15 lated materials and the means to deliver such weap-
16 ons and materials endanger the lives of Catholics in
17 Northern Ireland.

18 (8) The Committee on the Administration of
19 Justice in Northern Ireland reported that the use of
20 plastic bullets during riots only exacerbates the situ-
21 ation in Northern Ireland and increases rioting rath-
22 er than quelling it.

23 (9) The European Parliament has passed four
24 separate motions calling for the ban of plastic bul-

1 lets because such bullets are used as intimidating
2 weapons.

3 (10) The Government of the United Kingdom
4 has banned the use of plastic bullets during riots in
5 Great Britain on the grounds that such bullets are
6 dangerous and lethal.

7 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

8 The Congress declares that it is the policy of the
9 United States to deny to the United Kingdom the ability
10 to support acts of violence and destruction and to fund
11 the development and acquisition of plastic bullets and the
12 means to deliver such bullets by limiting the ability to im-
13 port, manufacture, and transport plastics to the United
14 Kingdom for the specific use in Northern Ireland against
15 predominately Catholic enclaves.

16 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON SALE OR EXPORT OF PLASTIC**
17 **BULLETS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, plastic bullets may not be sold or other-
20 wise exported to the Government of the United Kingdom
21 or to any other entity in the United Kingdom, including
22 the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

23 (b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The President may
24 exercise the authority provided to the President under the
25 Arms Export Control Act for the purpose of carrying out

1 subsection (a), including the authority relating to viola-
2 tions and enforcement under section 38(e) of such Act (22
3 U.S.C. 2778(e)).

4 **SEC. 5. BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES TO**
5 **LIMIT THE SALE OR EXPORT OF PLASTIC**
6 **BULLETS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to further the objectives
8 described in section 3, the President shall establish and
9 carry out appropriate diplomatic initiatives, both bilat-
10 erally with allies of the United States and multilaterally
11 in appropriate international fora (including the United
12 Nations), to limit the sale or export of plastic bullets to
13 the Government of the United Kingdom or any other en-
14 tity in the United Kingdom, including the Royal Ulster
15 Constabulary.

16 (b) REPORTS.—Not later than 6 months after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, and periodically there-
18 after, the President shall prepare and transmit to the Con-
19 gress a report containing a description of the extent to
20 which the bilateral and multilateral efforts described in
21 subsection (a) have been successful, including the names
22 of the countries that have agreed to limit the sale or export
23 of plastic bullets to the United Kingdom, including the
24 Royal Ulster Constabulary.

1 **SEC. 6. INCLUSION OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING USE OF**
2 **PLASTIC BULLETS AS WEAPONS IN NORTH-**
3 **ERN IRELAND IN ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS**
4 **REPORT.**

5 As part of the annual human rights report transmit-
6 ted to the Congress under section 502B of the Foreign
7 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304), the Secretary
8 of State shall include a description of each incident involv-
9 ing the use of plastic bullets as weapons in Northern Ire-
10 land during the preceding year.

11 **SEC. 7. DEFINITION.**

12 As used in this Act, the term “plastic bullet” means
13 a projectile made of rock-hard poly vinyl chloride that—

- 14 (1) is approximately 4 inches long and 1.5
15 inches in diameter;
16 (2) weighs approximately 4.75 ounces; and
17 (3) is usually off-white in color.

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